

D-371  
George W. Meekins Store Property  
Cambridge  
c. 1875  
Private

Sandwiched between the old Masonic Lodge and the Hopkins Building, this three-story, three-bay brick commercial block on Poplar Street retains its third quarter of the nineteenth century appearance with an intact first floor storefront cornice embellished with paired brackets. Similar to the finish of the adjacent Masonic Lodge, the windows that light the second and third floors are accented with bracketed cornice hoods. Enhancing the top of the street elevation is a heavy cornice, which is defined by end cornice brackets and a series of shaped modillion blocks that stretch across the fascia.

The series of historic maps that define the Cambridge business district, beginning in 1877 and extending through the early twentieth century, indicate the outline of this three-story, three-bay building, which was occupied during the early to mid twentieth century by storekeeper George W. Meekins. The building was most likely erected at the same time as the adjacent Masonic Lodge, and as a result, the two buildings share similar architectural finishes.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-371

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic George W. Meekins Store Property

other

### 2. Location

street and number 541 Poplar Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert A. Leone and Gisela Leone

street and number 27839 Riverside Drive Extended telephone 410-

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801-1237

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 415 folio 598

city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4431 tax ID number 07-15770

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-371

### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The George W. Meekins store property is located at 541 Poplar Street in the heart of the central business district of Cambridge. The three-story, three-bay brick commercial block, built around 1874-75, faces southwest with the shed roof descending to the rear in northeasterly direction. Attached to the back of the building is an early twentieth century brick addition. The interior has been reworked.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The George W. Meekins store property, standing at 541 Poplar Street, is located on the east side of the street with a southwestern exposure to the three-story, three-bay principal elevation. Built around 1875 about the same time as the adjacent corner building used by the Cambridge Lodge No. 66 of the Masons, this commercial block has a stretcher bond front wall pierced by a recessed entrance on the first floor, which is topped by an storefront cornice defined by pairs of sawn brackets. The glazed front door is flanked by plate glass display windows. The second and third floors are defined by three single-pane replacement windows, and fixed above each opening is a bracket window hood, similar in form to those used on the Masonic Lodge next door. Stretching across the base of the parapet wall is a heavy cornice marked by sawn brackets at each end and a series of shaped modillion blocks in between. The commercial block is flanked on each side by taller buildings.

The rear wall of the Victorian commercial block extends to the northeast with a shorter two-story six-course common bond wing topped by a shed roof that slopes slightly like a flounder roof wing. Attached to the back of the two-story wing is a single story brick wing laid in common bond with the alternating row laid in Flemish bond rather than all header bond. The rear wall of the addition is pierced by a garage door on the right (north) and a door and window combination to the left. The window opening is fitted with a six-over-six sash window and the opening is spanned by a double rowlock arch. The adjacent door opening is filled with a four-panel door, and the opening is spanned by a double rowlock arch as well. The roof to the addition is flat.

The interior of this commercial block has been remodeled with the removal of most of all of its third quarter of the nineteenth century finishes.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-371

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Sandwiched between the old Masonic Lodge and the Hopkins Building, this three-story, three-bay brick commercial block on Poplar Street retains its third quarter of the nineteenth century appearance with an intact first floor storefront cornice embellished with paired brackets. Similar to the finish of the adjacent Masonic Lodge, the windows that light the second and third floors are accented with bracketed cornice hoods. Enhancing the top of the Poplar Street elevation is a heavy cornice, which is defined by end cornice brackets and a series of shaped modillion blocks that stretch across the fascia in between.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The series of historic maps that define the Cambridge business district, beginning in 1877 and extending through the early twentieth century, all indicate the existence of this three-story, three-bay commercial block, which was occupied by George W. Meekins during the early to mid twentieth century. The building was most likely erected at the same time as the adjacent Masonic Lodge, and as a result, the two buildings share similar exterior architectural finishes.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-371

Name George W. Meekins Store Property  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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George W. Meekins Store Property  
541 Poplar Street  
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland  
Map 301, Parcel 4431

### CHAIN-OF-TITLE

MLB 415/598

Thomas Charles Kimmel

to

11.11.1999

Robert A. Leone and Gisela Leone

541 Poplar Street

411/155

Thomas C. Kimmel and Lynne Lockhart Kimmel

to

7.29.1999

Thomas C. Kimmel

(being the same property conveyed to Thomas and Lynne Lockhart  
Kimmel, 333/968, 30 March 1996; George W. Meekins Store Property)

PLC 250/49

Kent Mace Thomas, Clark H. Thomas

to

5.13.1988

Thomas C. Kimmel

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-371

Name George W. Meekins Store Property  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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WHM 3/278

The Cambridge Lodge No. 66

to

4.20.1917

George W. Meekins

Mortgage  
FJH 9/367

Lewis Thomas, Trustee

From

5.1.1874

The Cambridge Lodge No. 66 of Ancient, Free and Accepted  
Masons of Maryland

Sum not to exceed \$5,000

For the purpose of acquiring and holding a Lot and for erecting a building,  
or hall, upon said Lot to be used for the meeting of said Lodge, for the  
preservation of the furniture and other property now belonging to, or that  
may be hereafter be acquired by said Lodge and for such other purpose of  
acquiring and holding such other property as the aid Lodge may deem right and  
proper...

FJH 9/366

Charles E. Hayward, Trustee

to

4.23.1873

Cambridge Lodge No. 66

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-371

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
Sanborn Insurance Map, various issues, Library of Congress.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1.070 square feet	
Acreage of historical setting	1,070 square feet	
Quadrangle name	Cambridge, MD	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2.15.10
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



TALBOT CO  
DORCHESTER CO

Light

Hambrooks  
Bar

Slagle 3

Boat  
Ramp

Great Marsh  
Point

Radio  
Tower  
(WCEN)

Sandy Hill  
Sch

Middle  
Sch

Glasgow  
Sch

Golden Shore  
Sch

Long Wharf  
Park

Tidal  
Sta

Boat  
Ramps

R Tr

Heliport

Hosp

WT

MARYLAND

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

WT

CAMBRIDGE

Bethel  
Cem

Maces Lane

D-371, George W. Meekins Store  
Cambridge, MD Quadrangle





**BOSE** Arts  
Design School

Boca Raton Art Association  
221-WORK

1915

D-371

GEORGE W. MEELKINS STONE  
CAMBRIDGE, WORCESTER CO,  
MA

WEST ELEVATION

2.2010, PAUL B. TONAR,  
PITOTV.

NEL. / MD. HIST. TRUST

1 of 1

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D-371

1003714611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Matthews Real Estate

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

541 Poplar Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Donald E. Matthews

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

School Street, extended

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21613

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 162

Folio #: 116

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

D-371

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This brick building, probably constructed in the late 19th century, has undergone little change. It is a three story structure with a three bay front facade. The projecting cornice is supported by carved brackets at the corners and is ornamented by modillions. Over the windows on the second and third stories projecting flat arches are supported by brackets. There are wood slat awnings in front of the second story windows and across the street level story.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This attractive commercial structure was probably built in the late 19th century and remains relatively unaltered. Almost all of the buildings on this side of Poplar Street date to some time around the turn of the 20th century, but the least altered of these buildings are on the west corner of the street (where this building is located) from 533 to 543. These are some of the most distinctive commercial buildings in Cambridge. Other buildings on this side of the street have been altered, but could be returned to their original appearance.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

11/30/75

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

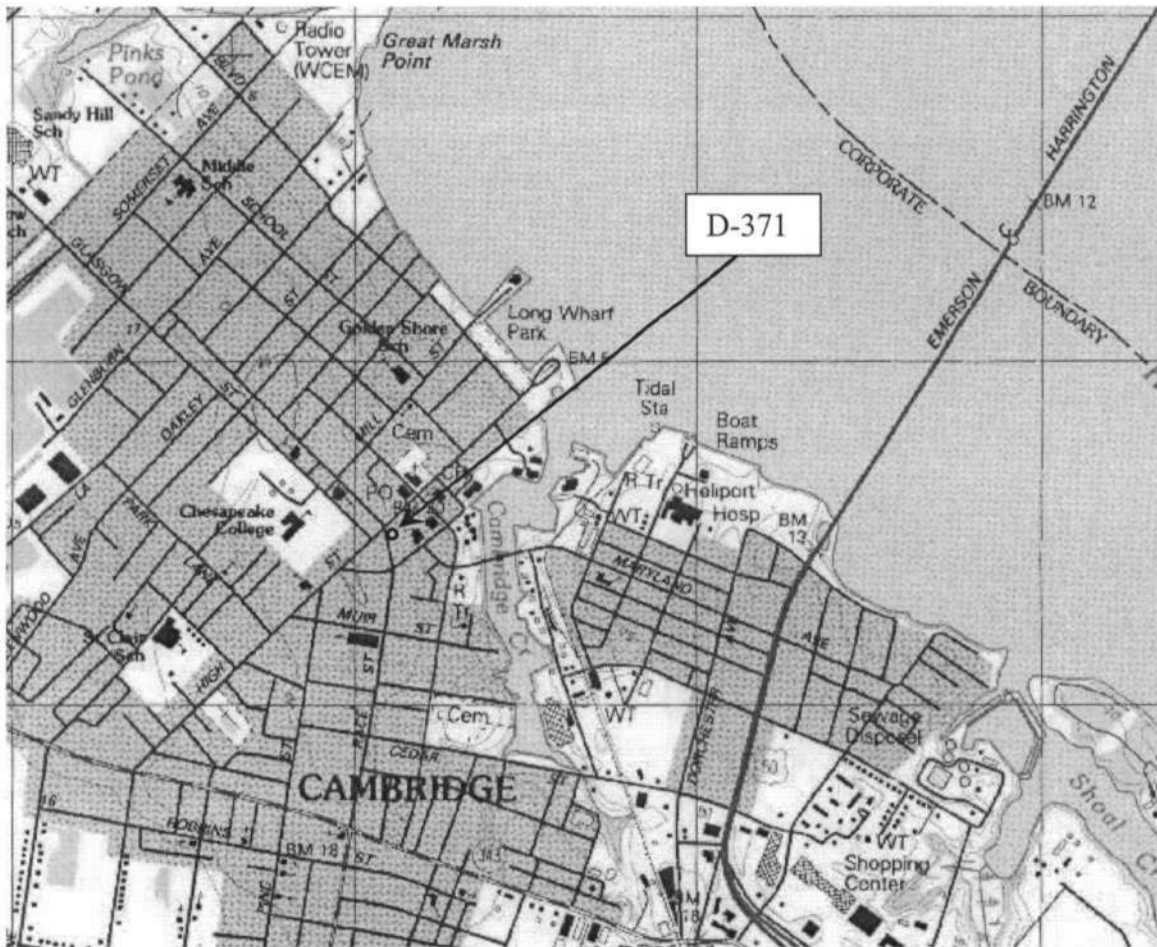
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





D-371  
541 Poplar St.  
Cambridge  
Cambridge Quad.  
Dorchester Co.





541 Poplar St., Cambridge, Md. - South Facade -  
C.L. Moore, 1976

D-371

50%